

Welcome to United States

Southern Command



2003

Miami, Florida

www.southcom.mil

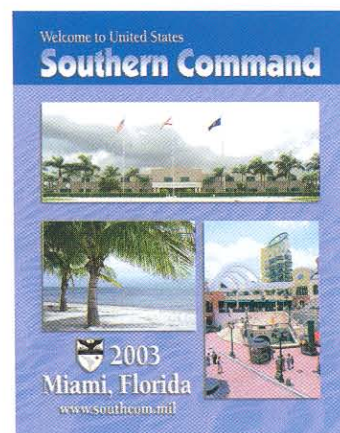


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U.S. Southern Command medical personnel provide vital medical care to host-nation citizens throughout the area of responsibility during various Medical Readiness Training Exercises.

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WELCOME From the Commander



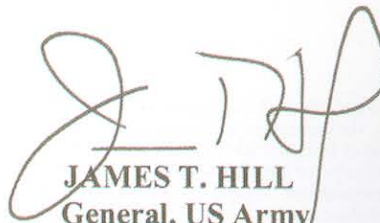
Welcome to the United States. Southern Command and South Florida. This is a dynamic period at USSOUTHCOM as we work to support the War on Terrorism and ensure regional security in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your skills and dedication will form a valuable part of the USSOUTHCOM team.

Our presence in South Florida has matured since our arrival in 1997. South Florida is a vibrant area that offers a wide variety of recreational, cultural and educational activities, and opportunities for all. This Welcome Guide will help you become acquainted with the area and with our command.

For those who have lived primarily on or near a military installation, your assignment to USSOUTHCOM will be a new and exciting experience. Here we live and work in a non-traditional military environment, sharing the community network with our civilian neighbors. Although traditional community support programs are available, they are not all provided by a traditional military source. For example, USSOUTHCOM does not have a military childcare center. Instead, we contract with several local, high-quality childcare centers, and we subsidize the cost to match the Department of Defense rate. In all ways, we work diligently to provide the same comprehensive quality of life services and support you would find on a traditional military base.

Our Miami Reception Center is a hub of support -- available to provide quality service and assistance during your transition and entire tour at SOUTHCOM. The center's services include housing referral and other real estate assistance, community and school information, family support programs, employment information, access to the internet, and much more. Feel free to contact the reception center at the numbers listed in this guide for all your information needs.

Your assignment at USSOUTHCOM will be both challenging and rewarding. As with any assignment, a smooth transition into the command and the community is an important first step toward a successful and enriching tour of duty. Take advantage of the services available to you and enjoy all that South Florida has to offer. I look forward to having you on our team!


JAMES T. HILL
General, US Army
Commander

The U.S. Southern Command traces its origins to 1903 when the first U.S. Marines arrived in Panama to protect the Panama Railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans across the narrow waist of the Panamanian Isthmus. The Marines continued providing security during the early days of construction of the Panama Canal. In 1907, with the appointment of Army Lt. Col. George W. Goethals to the post of Chief Engineer of the Isthmus of Panama Commission, the construction changed from a civilian to a military project.

In 1911, the first troops of the U.S. Army's 10th Infantry Regiment arrived at Camp E.S. Otis on the Pacific side of the Isthmus and assumed primary responsibility for Canal defense. In 1914, the Panama Canal opened to world commerce.

A year later, a consolidated command was designated as Headquarters, U.S. Troops, Panama Canal Zone. The command reported directly to the Army's Eastern Department Headquarters at Fort Jay, Governor's Island, New York. The headquarters was located in the Isthmian Canal Commission building in the town of Ancon, adjacent to Panama City. It relocated in 1916 to the nearby newly designated military post of Quarry Heights.

On July 1, 1917, the Panama Canal Department was activated as a geographic command of the U.S. Army. It remained as the senior Army headquarters in the region until activation of the Caribbean Defense Command on May 8, 1941, at Quarry Heights.

The Command's mission, from its activation through the end of the war, was to coordinate tactical planning and operations for the defense of the Panama Canal and for protection of the sea lane approaches to the Panama Canal, U.S. military sites in the Caribbean, and foreign sites crucial to American defense interests.

Military strength in the area reached its peak in January 1943 when 68,000 personnel were defending the Panama



U.S. forces routinely train with forces from countries within its AOR during exercises such as UNITAS, Cabañas, Tradewinds and Fuertes Defensas.

Canal. With the end of World War II, military strength was reduced. Between 1946 and 1974, total military strength fluctuated between 20,300 and 6,600. From 1975 until late 1994, the total military strength in Panama remained at about 10,000 personnel.

In December 1946, the president placed operational control of military forces in various geographic areas under the control of several commanders. One, the U.S. Caribbean Command, incorporated the CDC as its headquarters element. Activated as a unified command under the "executive agency" of the Department of the Army on Nov. 1, 1947, the U.S. Caribbean Command

(CARIBCOM) assumed the area of operational responsibility that encompassed Central America (less Mexico) and South America, the Caribbean Sea to include the greater and lesser Antilles and the easternmost portion of the Pacific Ocean.

Subsequent modifications to the Unified Command Plan (UCP) reduced the CINCARIB area of responsibility (AOR) to Central America (less Mexico) and South America. This shift away from the Caribbean led to proposals to rename the command to reflect its actual area of responsibility. On June 6, 1963, the Secretary of Defense redesignated CARIBCOM as U.S. Southern Command



U.S. forces in Panama City, Panama during Operation Just Cause.

and elevated the commander's billet from a three-star to a four-star billet.

The elevation of Southern Command to a four-star command carried with it an expansion of the command's mission responsibilities to include AOR-wide contingency planning, foreign military engagement and security assistance. Nonetheless, "local defense" of the Panama Canal and of U.S. interests in the Canal Zone remained the top mission priority, largely because of anti-Americanism and recurring civil unrest and political instability in the Republic of Panama. A military coup in 1968 ended the presence of a democratic government, an absence that continued for the next two decades. An intensified Cold War and the potential for Castro-inspired communist insurgencies further threatened democracy in the region.

In spite of these threats, bipartisan political pressure nearly forced the disestablishment of Southern Command in 1970 and again in 1975. Southern Command survived only because President Nixon, and later, President Ford, decided to retain Southern Command pending the outcome of negotiations with Panama for a new Panama Canal Treaty. The 1972 UCP restricted Southern Command's missions to "defense of the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone," contingency planning to "evacuation of U.S. nationals and disaster relief," and administration of military assistance programs. More significant, in 1975, the Secretary of Defense

downgraded Southern Command to a three-star command, while the Service Secretaries inactivated or downgraded Southern Command's component commands (e.g., the Army reduced U.S. Army South to a brigade). Implicit in these decisions was that Southern Command would be disestablished once the U.S. began implementation of a new Panama Canal Treaty.

Events during 1979-1981 reaffirmed the need for a strong U.S. military presence focused on Latin America and ended discussion about Southern Command's elimination. Sandinistas took power in Nicaragua and adopted a pro-Castro, anti-American posture; civil war erupted in El Salvador and the Marxist insurgents nearly toppled the government; Marxist insurgencies intensified in Honduras and Guatemala; in Colombia, already wracked by a major insurgency and drug trafficking violence, insurgents took hostage the U.S. Ambassador and other diplomats. Moreover, more than half the countries of Latin America were now under military dictatorships, and the region was rife with officially sanctioned human rights violations. Finally, the U.S. and Panama began the 20-year process of implementing the new Panama Canal Treaty with a Panamanian government controlled by military dictators who trumpeted Panamanian nationalism and proclaimed support for Fidel Castro.

These developments heightened awareness of the importance of Latin America to U.S. national security interests, which translated into enhanced status and broadened responsibilities for Southern Command. In 1983, the Secretary of Defense approved UCP revisions that restored Southern Command to a four-star command with expanded, multifaceted, theatre-wide missions.

Subsequent improvements included the re-activation of Southern Command's component commands, including Special Operations Command South in 1986 and Joint Task Force Bravo in 1987.

Southern Command's enhanced status proved itself repeatedly in subsequent years. The command's presence in Panama and the performance of the commanders and their staffs contained the Panama Crisis from 1987 through 1989 and prevented the crisis from affecting Panama Canal operations. The crisis eventually led to the successful execution of Operation Just Cause in December 1989, which removed Manuel Noriega from power and restored democracy in Panama.

Southern Command also played crucial roles in resolving the civil wars in El Salvador from 1979 to 1991, in Guatemala from 1961 to 1994 and a 300-year-old border dispute between Peru and Ecuador. The command was instrumental in delivering humanitarian and disaster assistance during Operation Safe Haven from 1994 to 1995 and during Hurricane Mitch from December 1998 to August 1999. Southern Command has also played key roles in elevat-



Southern Command, receives the Southern Command colors from Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during his assumption of command ceremony.



U.S. forces construct a medical clinic during a New Horizons Humanitarian Exercise in Dominica.

ing and regionalizing the ongoing effort to combat drug production and trafficking, in reducing regional tensions and promoting regional cooperation in Central America and the Andean Ridge, and in promoting military professionalism, respect for human rights, and support for civilian democracy.

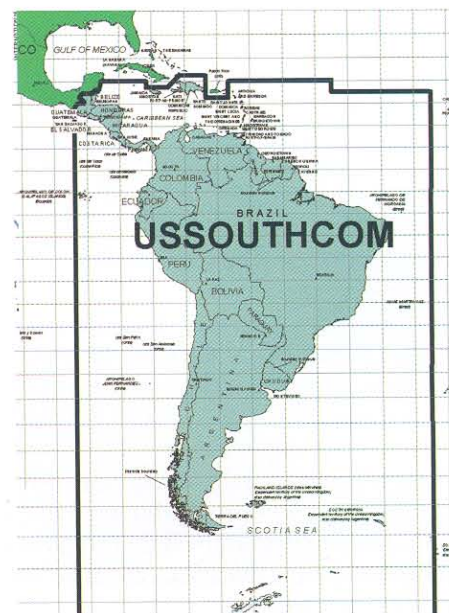
Most recently, the command's AOR has undergone several changes. The AOR expanded in 1996 and 1997, reincorporating to the Caribbean Sea and Antilles and adding the Gulf of Mexico, as well as portions of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In 1997, Southern Command relocated from Panama to Miami, marking the first time that any unified combatant command made a move of this magnitude. It also made Southern Command the only unified combatant command not located on a military post.

With the creation of the U.S. Northern Command in 2002, Southern Com-

mand's AOR was further modified to exclude Cuba and U.S. territories in the Caribbean, though it retained operational control for detainee operations in Guantanamo Bay.

Today, SOUTHCOM has about 5,000 permanently assigned military personnel. Its component commands consist of: U.S. Army South, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico (soon to relocate to Fort Sam Houston, Texas); U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; U.S. Southern Air Force (12th Air Force), Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; U.S. Marine Forces South, Miami, Florida; and Special Operations Command South, Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico. Also under Southern Command control are Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Joint Task Force Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras; Joint Interagency Task Force East, Key West, Florida; Joint Southern Surveil-

lance Reconnaissance Center, Key West, Florida; and 26 Security Assistance Organizations.





Personnel specialists from all services are on hand at the J-1 personnel counter in the headquarters building to provide customers with one-on-one service.

Lodging

Persons being assigned to U.S. Southern Command have to make their own hotel, travel and vehicle reservations, unless the reservations are made by the losing installation travel office or the sponsor. Sponsors can provide listings of hotels, car rental agencies and airport information to help make the transition to Miami and Southern Command a success.

Several U.S. Government and service lodging programs are available to facilitate lodging arrangements. Each program has minor differences and arranges lodging with different hotels; however, the per diem and lodging rates are the same.

The Federal Premier Lodging Program (FPLP) is a General Services Administration (GSA) run program for use by federal employees and military personnel on official travel. U.S. Government contractors, retirees and persons on leave are not eligible for FPLP rates. More information on this program and participating hotels is available at www.gsa.gov/fplp.

The U.S. Army's Lodging Success Program is designed for use by personnel on either official or unofficial travel. To use the program call 1-800-GO-ARMY-1. You will receive a reservation at one of the hotels participating in the program or a number authorizing you to make reservations at another hotel in the area. Log on to the program Website at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/ for more information.

The Navy Elite Lodging Program is also available. This program emphasizes that lodging arrangements be made through the Commercial Travel Office (CTO). Persons traveling by POV or Navy-owned aircraft can contact the CTO at 1-800-576-9327. Log on to www.navigant.com/locations/SatoTravel/NavyLodgingProgram.asp for more information.

The Air Force Lodging Program has lodging agreements with a variety of hotels near the Miami International Airport area and Southern Command headquarters. Air Force personnel can make lodging arrangements by calling 1-888-AFLODGE (1-888-235-6343). Log on to

www.afsv.afn.mil/database/lodging/listingbases.asp for more information.

Miami area hotels with airport shuttle service require that you call from the baggage claim area on the local transportation phones located throughout the airports. The hotel shuttles usually arrive within 15 to 30 minutes of your call, depending on the time and date. Most major car rental agencies are located at or have pickup points at the airports.

There are two major airports that most people coming to Miami use. The Miami International Airport is located approximately 10 miles from Southern Command headquarters. The Fort Lauderdale International Airport is located approximately 30 miles from Southern Command headquarters. There are advantage and disadvantages to using either one. When making your choice, consider the cost of the ticket, the airlines that service the airport and where you have made your hotel reservations.

Most hotels require check-in prior to 4:30 p.m. A credit card number is required if you want to check in later than 4:30 p.m. Many area hotels have non-smoking and smoking rooms available. Remember to make your preference known when making your reservations or you will get what is available at the time of check-in.

The government per diem rate for Miami is \$98 for lodging and \$46 for meals and incidentals. Anyone traveling on official government business in Florida is exempt from the 12.5 percent state and local tax if proper documentation is provided to the hotel at the time of check in. Ask your sponsor to pick up a copy of the tax exempt form from the Family Service Center and mail it to you. Some hotels will allow you to present the form after check-in, provided you tell them that you are military and plan to provide the form at the earliest date possible. Be sure to advise the reservation clerk that you want the military or Southern Command rate. If you are reporting in during the "high" tourist season, this rate may not be available.

WELCOME TO MIAMI

The high tourist season in Miami is normally from Dec. 15 to April 15. It is extremely difficult to find quality lodging without a reservation during this time, so plan ahead.

Reporting for Duty

When reporting for duty with Southern Command, personnel must report to the Codina Building, 8300 N.W. 33th Street, Suite 110. Personnel specialists for each branch of service are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for in processing. If you arrive after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, plan to sign in at 7:30 a.m. the following Monday or Tuesday (if Monday is a federal holiday). Don't worry about room and phone numbers at this point. You will be escorted by your sponsor, or a liaison, until proper clearance is obtained.

All of your in processing will be handled here in Miami, although your servicing personnel and finance offices

may be located as far away as Tampa, Patrick Air Force Base or Jacksonville. If you have any sort of emergency situation prior to signing in, please call the Southern Command duty officer at (305) 437-4900 for assistance.

Almost all of your in processing will be conducted in the headquarters, Thurman Building, 3511 NW, 91st Avenue. This includes medical, security and dental. The Housing Office and Family Service Center are located in the Codina Building, approximately one mile from the headquarters. The FSC has a wealth of information on employment, schools and housing.

A transportation officer is available at Southern Command headquarters to assist you with arranging delivery of your household goods and pickup of your personal vehicle or you may call the U.S. Coast Guard at Richmond Heights Transportation Movement Office (TMO). The number you call is determined by the letter of your last

name. A list of the phone numbers for the Coast Guard TMO is located in the back of this guide under useful telephone numbers.

Uniforms

The duty uniforms for Southern Command personnel on Mondays through Thursdays is battle dress uniform for Army and Marine Corps; BDU or flight suit for Air Force; Tropical Long or BDU (if issued) for Coast Guard; Navy personnel E-7 and above wear Summer Khaki, E-6 and below wear Dungarees, BDU (if issued) and flight suits are also authorized.

On Fridays, the duty uniform is Class B for Army (ribbons optional); Summer Service C for Marine Corps; Summer White (E-6 or below) and Summer White or Summer Khaki (E-7 and above) for Navy; Short Sleeve Service Uniform for Air Force (ribbons optional); and Tropical Blue for Coast Guard.



Southern Command routinely sponsors MWR events, such as field days and picnics.

WELCOME TO MIAMI Housing

Off-Base Only Housing

All personnel assigned and attached to Southern Command live on the local economy, either in government leased housing or commercial housing.

Southern Command has a limited number of leased housing units in the greater Miami and Broward area to support junior enlisted families and single junior enlisted personnel. There are also some leased housing for key and essential personnel.

Personnel may need to look towards the community for their housing needs. The Housing Referral Office has listings of government-leased housing areas and other housing areas near Southern Command. The Housing Referral Office is located in the Miami Reception Center, 8300 NW 33rd Street, Suite 110, Miami, FL 33122. The phone numbers are: (305) 437-2664/2670/2636 or DSN 567-2664/2670/2636. You may write them at USAG-Miami, ATTN: Housing, 3511 N.W. 91st Avenue, Miami, FL 33172-1712.

Dade and Southwest Broward counties are the most common areas for Southern Command personnel to live. The good news is that there is housing availability in all price ranges and types of homes.

The majority of homes in South Florida are ranch style, one-story homes without basements or attics. For indoor comfort, the majority of homes are air-conditioned. Patio or "cluster" homes are found in the newer areas of the suburbs. They are unattached homes, many two-story, on very small lots. Most feature fenced garden areas, two or three bedrooms and two baths.

Rental Set-Aside

All service members assigned to Southern Command, regardless of rank, family size or credit rating are authorized to participate in the Rental Housing Set-Aside Program. The benefit of this program is that the security deposits

(sometimes as much as three months rent) are waived and lower rents are sometimes offered.

A list of the participating properties is available at the Miami Reception Center and on the Southern Command website (www.southcom.mil/usagmiami/index.htm). There's no cost to participate in the program, however, service members are required to sign a 12-month lease and pay their rent by allotment. During the lease period, which can be extended, the landlords cannot raise the rent for 12 months and the military clause applies.

The Housing Office is always striving to increase the number of participants in this program. If you find a landlord who is willing to rent you a house or apartment under the terms of the set-aside program, put them in touch with the housing office. Our phone numbers are: (305) 437-2656/2670/2664/2636.

Utilities Overview

Assume that you will be paying deposits for all utilities when you move to Miami or vicinities, and you should budget for these expenses. Generally, the major utilities will require deposits and the deposits can be rather steep.

To help off-set the high costs associated with relocating to Miami, Southern Command has established a deposit reduction program with Florida Power and Light. A \$16 turn-on fee will be included in your first month billing statement. The FPL staff checks customer's credit history to determine if a deposit is required. If your credit rating is good, the deposit is waived. If your credit rating is poor, you will be required to pay a deposit. See the housing office if your deposit is more than \$100 to sign-up for the Application Program for Military Personnel (APMP). To setup your FPL account, call (305) 442-8770 in Dade or (954) 797-5000 in Broward.

BellSouth requires no deposit if you have had previous service, otherwise, a

deposit is necessary and will be based on your current credit rating. The average deposit ranges between \$120 and \$250. To acquire telephone service you must call (305) 780-2355 in Dade or 1-800-203-2355.

In most apartment complexes the landlord pays for water and waste collection, but if you buy a home you will be responsible for all utility payments. There are more than 20 water companies in the area. The deposit and new account fees vary with each location. The average deposit in Dade County for renters and homeowners is \$100 (refundable) and \$40 (non-refundable) connection fee. In Pembroke Pines, renters can average paying \$80 on deposits and homeowners average \$90. For more information call (305) 665-7488 in Dade, (954) 450-6900 in Pembroke Pines, (954) 746-3232 in Weston and Sunrise, (954) 434-4300 in Cooper City and (954) 786-4637 in Pompano Beach.

If you are renting or buying in Dade and gas is used in your new residence a \$46 to \$100 security deposit and a \$20 activation fee is required by City Gas. Their telephone number is (305) 691-0313 or People's Gas (305) 940-0139 for further information.

There are a vast number of cable companies in the surrounding areas. Deposits are not required; however, a non-refundable activation fee will be required. Fees may vary from one company to another. Some apartment complexes include basic cable. If additional features are desired, the customer must pay out of pocket.

Temporary Lodging Expenses

The Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) allowance is intended to partially offset the cost of lodging and meals when members need to occupy temporary lodgings in the continental United States (CONUS) in conjunction with a permanent change of station move. TLE



This apartment complex, located just a few miles from Southern Command, is home to both unaccompanied and accompanied command personnel.

allowance is payable after arrival in the area of the permanent duty station or designated place within CONUS when per diem is not otherwise payable.

Temporary lodgings for which TLE is authorized must be a temporary place of residence, such as a hotel or motel. When both spouses are active duty, each is entitled to TLE. This entitlement exists whether or not temporary lodgings are used jointly or separately. Each member may be paid or reimbursed up to a maximum of \$110 per day. A service member cannot be considered a family member for TLE payment. Only one member can claim the same family members for TLE purposes.

TLE is payable to personnel who use government lodging facilities at

Homestead Air Reserve Base. For reservations call DSN 791-7198 or commercial (305) 224-7198.

TLE is authorized for a maximum of 10 days with a PCS move in CONUS. Members may choose to split the days between the old duty station and Miami. Because of the high cost of living here in Miami, It is recommended that you use the majority of the entitlement here.

Personnel can't be reimbursed more than \$110 per day for TLE. This applies if the member and family members occupy temporary lodgings on the same or different days. Receipts for lodging are required to support lodging costs. When a service member and or family member stays with a friend or relative, lodging cost for that day is zero. How-

ever, TLE is authorized for meals only. Receipts are not required for meal reimbursement. To receive TLE, personnel are required to provide a paid lodging receipt (original and three copies) and three copies of the PCS orders and amendments (if applicable) to the finance liaison. Finance is located in the Miami Reception Center, 8300 NW. 33rd Street.



John I. Smith Elementary School, located just four miles from the command, is one of more than 461 public schools operating throughout Dade and Broward Counties.

There are no Department of Defense Dependent Schools in South Florida. To enter a child into the public school system, certain state-enforced requirements must be met. Children who reach the age of five on or before Sept. 1 of the school year are eligible for admission to public kindergarten during that school year. Any child attaining the age of six on or before Jan. 1 of the school year is eligible for admittance to first grade at any time during the school year, provided the child has completed kindergarten.

Students must reside within the school district boundaries of the school they are attending. This does not include magnet schools or other special programs. This is why many concerned military parents, when moving their children to a new area, should spend time researching the available school districts. In some cases, determined by the present enrollment, size of schools and district policies, parents can petition for their children to attend schools in a specific district regardless of where they reside. However, this is usually the exception rather than the rule. If you have any questions, please talk to school officials in the district that you are interested in before registering your child. The safest situation would be to choose to live within the boundaries of the school district where you would like your children to attend school.

From the magnet programs in elementary schools to research-oriented medical schools, South Florida educa-

tional facilities are earning high marks for innovative programs. Like higher educational facilities, schools across South Florida concentrate on developing the well-educated and highly skilled workforce that the region's business community demands.

It is a good idea to visit the schools that your children will be attending and even interview several principals, PTA members, teachers, parents and coaches. Every child is unique and different schools offer concentrations in different areas. Keep in mind your children's skills and interests when contemplating school districts in which to live as some schools may offer programs that will encourage and expand these areas.

Broward County Schools

The sixth largest, fully-accredited school system in the nation, there are 116 elementary, 33 middle and 22 high schools serving more than 217,000 students in Broward County. The school district operates on a 180-day school year, with nine week grading periods.

Thirty-two magnet programs at 22 schools offer special curriculum, facilities and equipment, with an emphasis on unique instruction. Open boundaries allow students across the county to enroll in magnet programs. Transportation is provided.

The school system is rich with many cultures with students from 106 countries speaking 63 languages. Public transportation is provided to any child

living more than two miles from his or her designated school. For information on school district boundaries in Broward County, please call (954) 765-6285. The information below is helpful and needed when registering children for school in Broward:

- Birth Certificate.
- Two proofs of residence such as electric bill, telephone bill, or voter registration. Documents must be provided within the first 30 days of the start of classes.
- Florida Certificate of Immunization with dates for each for the following: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (5), Polio (4 TOPV), Measles, Mumps and Rubella.
- Notification of any health problems requiring staff awareness and/or supervision.
- At least two emergency contact numbers.

The following office may be contacted for specific information on Broward area schools:

Broward County School Board
600 S.E. 3rd Avenue, 13th Floor
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Telephone: (954) 765-6523
www.browardschools.com

Dade County Schools

The nation's fourth largest school system, serving approximately 322,000 students, Dade County has consistently provided top-level, innovative educational programs. As a pioneer in "school-based management," it has instituted reforms in more than half the district's 290 schools and education centers.

This system has classroom teachers, other school staff and, often, parents involved in grass-roots decision-making in a school's curriculum, personnel and budget. Dade County has an exciting array of 54 magnet schools, which attract students from throughout the county to study in specialized fields. Some of the fields are computer technol-

ogy, engineering, international business, aviation, and broadcasting. More than 2,400 area businesses are members of Dade Partners in Education, in which companies assist students and schools.

Free bus service is provided for children living more than two miles from their designated school. Daycare is provided at over 50 locations. For more information, call (305) 995-1899.

Another unique feature of the Dade County Public Schools is Homework Help, which is a free service for students (grades kindergarten through 12th) and parents. The services are available on school nights for help with math, language arts, science and social studies. Bilingual teachers are also available.

The information below is helpful and needed when registering a child for school in Dade County:

- Birth Certificate.
- Proof of physical and dental exam's within the last 12 months.
- Health and immunization records.
- Proof of residency.
- Transfer form and report cards from previous school.
- Complete address of previous school.

The following office may be contacted for specific information on Dade area schools:

Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33132
Phone: (305) 995-1128
www.dade.k12.fl.us

Prepaid College Program

You can pay for your children's college education years before they graduate from high school through Florida's Prepaid College Program. This plan was designed to help parents beat the rising costs of tuition by locking in tuition at today's prices. To qualify, some residency requirements exist.

You can choose to pay for this plan in either a lump sum or installments.



Southern Command volunteers often donate their time to assist local schools with mentoring and education programs.

The plan is financially guaranteed by the State of Florida. All funds paid into the program are invested in a trust fund, much like a pension plan. You can enter your child in the program anytime from birth through 11th grade. Pending acceptance, your child may attend any one of Florida's four-year universities or 27 community colleges. If your child enrolls in an out-of-state college, the program will transfer either an amount equaling the value of state tuition at the

time of enrollment or the amount originally paid plus five percent interest, whichever is less.

If you withdraw from the plan, you will receive a refund minus a \$50 service charge. However, you will not receive any interest. Registration for the Florida Prepaid College Program is conducted annually in January with payments beginning in April. Call 1-800-552-GRAD or go to www.floridaprepaidcollege.com for more details.

WELCOME TO MIAMI Weather

Florida is called the sunshine state for a reason. South Florida averages 251 days of sunshine a year, so sunscreen is a must. It is a sub-tropical paradise where the temperatures range from 60 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit year round and humidity ranges between 55 to 60 percent inland and 65 to 70 percent on the beaches and coasts. Afternoon thunderstorms and ocean breezes temper the humid conditions with cooler winds.

South Florida has two seasons - wet and dry. The wet season in South Florida begins in May and extends through October. Precipitation during the wet season can be heavy enough to issue flood warnings but heavy rain doesn't necessarily mean continuous cloudy conditions. Often strong downpours quickly give way to a high UV index.

The average dry season covers the time between November and April where the humidity level drops and the winds bring milder, cooler tempera-

tures. Annual precipitation in the state averages 57.55 inches of rainfall per year and in Miami the average is 56.10 inches per year.

South Florida is also well known for its tropical cyclone season. Hurricanes are a reality in South Florida. Below is a list to remember or have on hand during hurricane season, June 1 through Nov. 30:

- Withdraw emergency cash from ATMs early as they may become inoperable if the power goes out
- Turn off electricity, gas; and unplug electronic equipment
- Keep insurance policy on hand and updated
- Carry all credit cards
- Plan possible escape routes
- Check food supply (canned goods are best), batteries, emergency tools and supplies. Also try to keep half a tank or

more of fuel in your car(s).

- Monitor latest advisories
- Leave low-lying areas
- Leave mobile homes
- Board windows or protect with shutters or tape
- Secure outdoor areas
- Store drinking water
- Check battery-powered equipment

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
Extreme High Temp (F)	86	88	92	94	95	97	98	96	96	95	90	85	98
Average Daily High Temp (F)	74	74	76	79	82	85	87	87	86	83	79	75	81
Average Daily Temp (F)	69	69	72	75	78	81	83	83	82	79	74	70	76
Average Low Temp (F)	63	63	67	70	74	77	78	78	77	74	70	65	71
Extreme Low Temp (F)	32	38	32	45	85	65	66	67	67	54	39	32	32

This chart depicts the average temperatures for South Florida.

WELCOME TO MIAMI Driving

Driving in Southern Florida is challenging and requires that at all times you remain aware of other drivers, the condition of your vehicle, the road and weather conditions. The roads are normally congested with traffic, much of which is comprised of teenagers, elderly citizens and tourists.

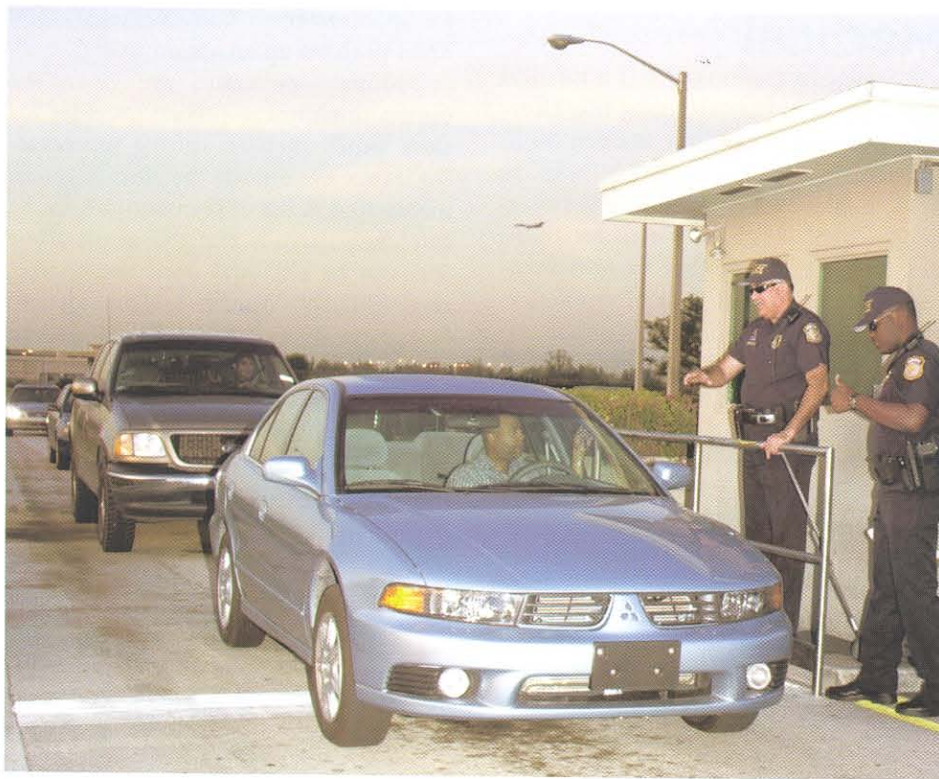
Miami has one of the highest insurance rates in the nation. Check with your insurance agency before arriving for the best rates. It may be necessary for you to change your auto insurance company. Miami was recently ranked seventh in the nation for the number of traffic fatalities by population and is in the top five for the most pedestrian casualties and accidents.

The following tips may be helpful in avoiding an accident:

- Make a right turn on red only after coming to a complete stop. Check for a sign to ensure that turning right on red is permitted.
- Full headlights are required during rain, smog and fog.
- Bicycle riders must follow the same traffic lane as vehicular traffic. Lights are required for the front and rear of the bike.
- Seat belts are mandatory and children must be in child restraint seats when applicable.
- In Florida, driving under the influence is defined by a .08 percent blood alcohol level. Police can immediately suspend the driver's license of anyone arrested for driving under the influence or who refuses to take a blood, breath or urine test.

You have 30 days to obtain a Florida driver's license from the time you do one or more of the following:

- Accept a job in Florida
- Enroll your children in a local school
- Register to vote in Florida



Force protection and security measures on the compound are controlled by a well-trained DoD civilian police force.

- Claim a homestead exemption on purchased residential property.

Within 30 days of moving to Florida, you must obtain a Florida license plate (exceptions for active duty military) when you:

- Accept a job in Florida
- Enroll your children in a local school
- Register to vote in Florida
- Claim a homestead exemption on purchased residential property.

The weight of your car determines the cost of the vehicle tag. The tag is renewable each year on your birthday month, or the Department of Motor Vehicle assigned birthmonth of the vehicle (on leased vehicles). Renewal is authorized by mail. A nominal fee is charged for mail-in registration.

To receive your license plate, you must present your vehicle registration, proof of insurance (no-fault insurance is mandatory), emissions test certificate and automobile title. If you have an out of state title, the registration office will keep your title and mail you a Florida title within 30 days. Non-residents (military personnel and students) who have a car in Florida for more than 90 days during a year are required to have no-fault insurance.

There is no required state safety inspection; however, residents of Broward and Dade counties are required to obtain an annual emissions inspection prior to renewing the license plate registration. The emissions test must be performed by authorized inspectors. The cost currently is \$12. For information on driver's license requirements in Broward, call (954) 327-6333 and in Dade call (305) 229-6333.

Medical

Southern Command has a medical clinic at its headquarters in the Thurman Building. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Wednesday afternoon when the clinic closes for training. The clinic provides various medical services including family practice, well baby, social work and immunizations. X-ray is provided by an on-call agency. Specialty services are handled on the economy.

Military sick call is conducted daily from 7:30 to 8 a.m. There is no family member sick call. Urgent care requiring a same day appointment is triaged by the nurse. An on-call physician is available after hours to discuss your care. Family members must call in or visit the clinic

for appointments. Call (305) 437-3559 or 1148 to set up an appointment.

Military personnel are given the option to choose a private provider for their family member during inprocessing if they live outside the 50-mile catchments area. A list of communities in the catchments area is available at the clinic and can be obtained from the contact representative. Waivers are provided to family members inside the catchment area who may have special medical needs, pediatric preferences or transportation issues.

Active duty service members (and their family members who elect the clinic as their primary care provider) are referred to civilian facilities for specialty treatment not available at the clinic.

A shuttle service available to take active duty personnel to and from the

clinic for appointments at the Veterans Health Administration Hospital in Miami. The shuttle departs Southern Command headquarters daily at 7, 9 and 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. The drive takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Individuals at the Veterans Administration who need a ride to Southern Command are asked to check in at the VA's DoD Clinic. Return transportation can be arranged until 4 p.m., when the last shuttle departs the VA for Southern Command headquarters.

A TRICARE benefits service representative is available at the health clinic Monday through Friday in room 1304E. Call (305) 437-1767 for more information.

Incoming personnel can call the Health Benefits Advisor at (305) 437-1394 to get this process started prior to their arrival.

A pharmacy available for patients seen in the clinic. Other patients must use the TRICARE pharmacies. Call (305) 437-1749 to refill prescriptions written at the Southern Command clinic if there are refills available, otherwise they will need to make an appointment to be re-evaluated.

Dental services for active duty personnel are coordinated through the Southern Command Dental Office, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling (305) 437-1756. Family members are encouraged to schedule their appointments through a civilian dentist accepting the United Concordia Dental Plan or a plan of choice. A list of providers is available and can be obtained by visiting the dental office located in the clinic.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service operates a shoppette, laundry and dry cleaners and barber shop in the Southern Command headquarters building. These services augment or replace an exchange, military clothing store, dining facility and commissary, which do not



Medical care at Southern Command's on-site clinic is available Monday through Friday.

exist at the headquarters but are available at Homestead Air Reserve Base, about 30 miles south of the headquarters building.

The shoppette is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to food and hygiene items, there is also a small selection of uniform items, watches, CDs, books, magazines, greeting cards, postage stamps, check cashing (\$50 over purchase amount, subject to availability of funds) and more. Film can be turned in for processing and is normally returned within two business days.

AAFES catalogue orders can be placed from the shoppette and the merchandise is shipped directly to your residence. Military Star account cards can be used to make purchases at the shoppette and payments are also accepted. Individuals who wish to open an account can do so at the Homestead Air Reserve Base Exchange.

The laundry and dry cleaners is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most items are returned within three days and one-day service is also available. Comforters, drapes, velvet, leather and velour can be turned in for cleaning, however, most of these items require more than two days turn around time.

The barber shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Men and women haircuts are available.

Banking facilities are not available. An automatic teller machine is available near the headquarters' building entrance. The machine accepts cards from most banking networks and charges a \$.75 fee for non-account holders.

Southern Command does not have a military-style dining facility. A cafeteria is available at the Federal Reserve Building, located within walking distance from the command. Menu items include various salad and pasta bars and hot and cold sandwiches.

Refrigerated sandwiches and microwaveable meals are available for purchase at the Shoppette. Warm meals are available at Café Lago, located next to



The on-site shoppette stocks a variety of products to include refrigerated food, drinks, magazines, cleaning and hygiene supplies and a small selection of uniform items.

the shoppette and cleaners. Menu items at Café Lago include specialty sandwiches and special-of-the-day Caribbean dishes. All menu items are carryout only. Café Lago is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A mobile caterer is also available from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A variety of popular fast food and family-style restaurants as well as ethnic restaurants are located within two miles of the headquarters. With the exception of the ATM, the services mentioned above are not available or are closed on federal holidays.

The Homestead ARB exchange is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The BX Mart is a combined exchange and commissary and offers a large variety of merchandise, as well as check cashing privileges up to \$300.

Chaplain

The command chaplain is the primary advisor to the commander on religion, ethics and morals. The command

chaplain is responsible for coordinating chaplain support to ensure the free exercise of religion for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard service members, their family members and other U.S. personnel within the area of responsibility (AOR). The chaplain also serves as liaison with civilian and military religious organizations and leaders in the AOR.

The chaplain's office is located in Room 1225 and provides religious ministry support to military members, family members, and other authorized personnel assigned to Southern Command headquarters. Support for personnel includes:

- Assistance with integration into religious faith groups within the Dade and Broward communities
- Counseling - individual, marriage and family
- Catholic services on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.
- Non-denominational Bible study Wednesdays at noon
- Marriage enrichment retreats



The command chaplain's office offers religious services and non-denominational bible study weekly at the headquarters.

A chaplain is available 24 hours a day. Call (305) 437-1023/1024 during duty hours or (305) 437-3720 evenings, weekends and holidays.

Legal

The U.S. Southern Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate serves as the principal advisor to the commander, staff and security assistance organizations on all legal matters pertaining to

Southern Command activities, including ethics, standards of conduct, counter-drug function, exercises, deployments for training, security assistance deployments and intelligence oversight.

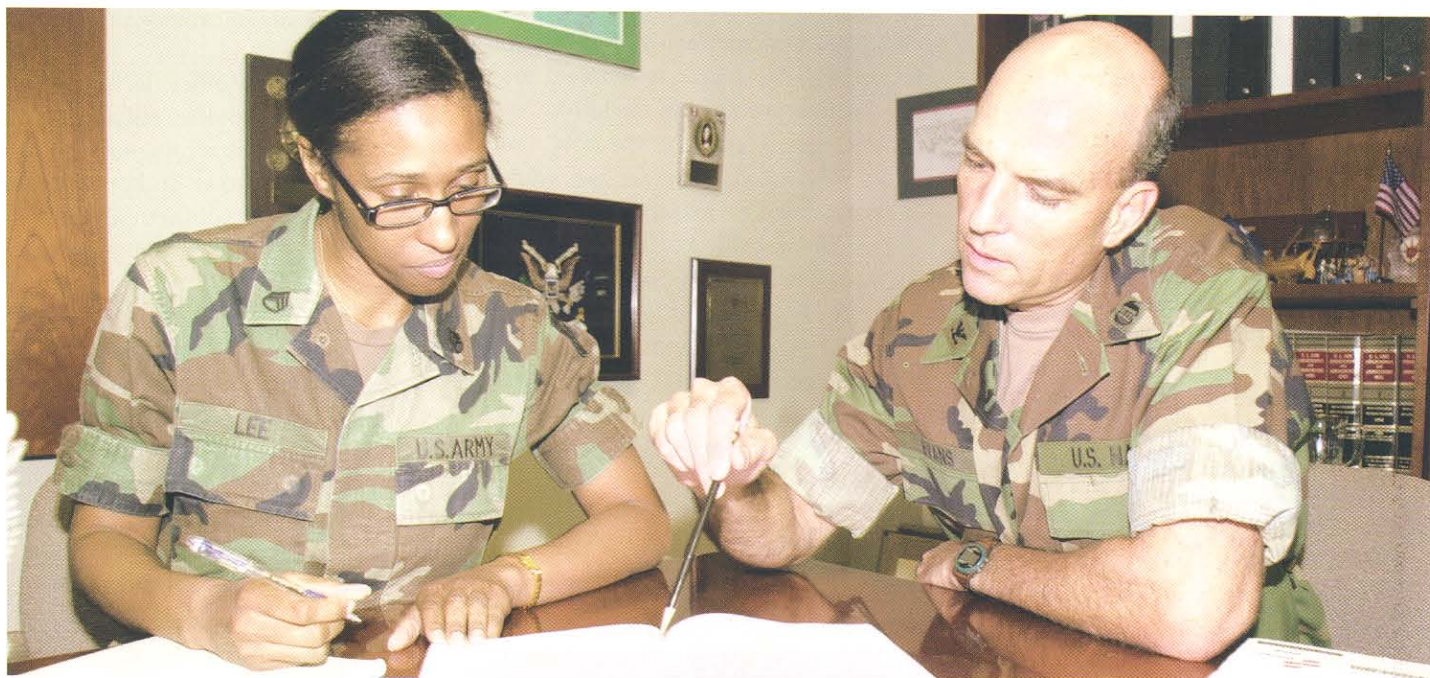
Legal assistance is provided by U.S. Army Garrison-Miami. Legal assistance appointments may be made from 8 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday in room 1123, in Southern Command headquarters or by calling DSN 567-1307 or commercial (305) 437-1307.

Services provided include referrals, notary services and preparation of powers of attorney. The legal assistance office also assists with estate planning, preparation of wills, domestic issues, tax assistance and landlord tenant issues.

During limited staffing, the 174th Legal Support Organization, Army Reserve may provide legal assistance during weekend drills. The 174th LSO is located at 11700 N.W. 27th Ave., Miami, Florida. To obtain information on availability of services, call (305) 953-0425.

For other than routine legal assistance services (criminal, Article 15 defense counseling, etc.), active duty personnel are instructed to contact the following legal assistance offices based on their service affiliation:

- Air Force: Patrick Air Force Base, DSN: 854-7815 or commercial (407) 497-7815.
- Army: Fort Stewart, DSN: 870-7579 or commercial (912) 767-7579.
- Navy, Marine Corps: Naval Air Station Jacksonville: DSN: 942-2565, ext. 3204.
- Coast Guard: Seventh Coast Guard District: (305) 536-4343.



From taxes to powers of attorney, free legal assistance is available from field experts at Southern Command.

Joint Services Education Center (JSEC)

The Southern Command Joint Services Education Center provides ample opportunities for soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard personnel to further their education. JSEC's quality education programs promote personal growth and prepare servicemembers to meet new challenges, thereby helping good service members to become better service members. Education Center staff members are strongly committed to ensuring the highest quality customer service to every member of the Southern Command family who comes to the office for assistance with educational goals.

Service members assigned to Southern Command and its AOR can attend approximately 65 colleges and universities. Some of these institutions are located in the Miami area, but many more are external degree plans through institutions from various parts of the country and world. Tuition assistance is authorized at all accredited educational facilities. Carlos Albizu University teaches college level courses in Spanish in the education center at Southern Command. Florida grants residence status for the purpose of determining tuition rates to all military personnel and their family members who provide military identification and copies of orders bringing them to Florida.

The JSEC staff consists of an education services officer, a guidance counselor, an education technician and a test administrator. An education center staff member greets the service members as they enter the Center, takes personal information, initiates an initial screening, then directs each service member to the appropriate staff specialist. The servicemember's needs are the primary concern of the center; prompt, thorough customer service is the goal. The main services provided are counseling, testing, tuition assistance, college program information, VA education benefits information and distance learning pro-

gram information. The center also provides its customers with counseling on GI Bill benefits, grants, loans and other financial aid programs.

The education counselor provides general educational guidance services and assists servicemembers with their educational planning and goals. Career enhancement efforts are focused on both the active duty career and on preparing the servicemember for the eventual transition from military life to the civilian workforce.

The counselor also assists with finding and utilizing non-traditional learning methods, such as distance learning, to earn college and vocational credit. These methods are a good alternative when the traditional classroom method of study is not practical or when the servicemember simply prefers an alternative to the classroom environment. Non-traditional learning programs are available for many academic and vocational areas of study and are delivered in various ways, to include traditional mail, the internet, e-mail or via satellite television.

The instructional information comes in various forms, including lesson plans, study materials and audio and video presentations. Currently, there are hundreds of programs available to our customers, with more coming on line all

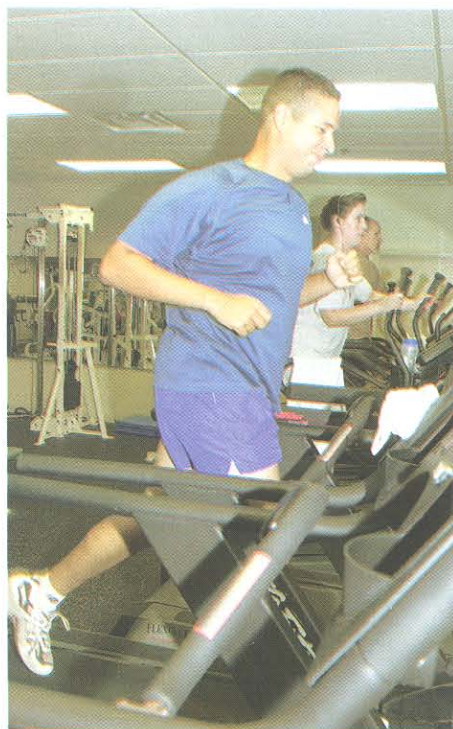
the time. The counselor can provide the list of available programs and assist in the decision-making process.

The test administrator provides a wide array of tests, generally at no cost to the service member. These tests can be used for professional development, to fulfill the requirements for many college degree programs and to gain acceptance to various colleges, universities and professional schools. The tests include, but are not limited to, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) General and Subject Examinations, DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs), Excelsior College Examination (ECE) Tests, Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPT), American College Testing (ACT), Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), The Praxis Series and Pre-Professional Skills Tests. In addition, the test administrator proctors examinations for courses that the service members may order from colleges, universities, professional organizations or military branches.

The JSEC is a relatively new center with a dedicated and committed staff constantly seeking to improve their services and committed to providing customers with the best education assistance possible.



The Joint Services Education Center has a wealth of information on the educational programs and institutions available in South Florida. Counselors are available to help members achieve their professional and personal education goals.



The Physical Fitness Center offers both muscle strengthening and cardiovascular equipment to authorized users.

Directorate of Community Activities

The Directorate of Community Activities for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is responsible for several programs for Southern Command military and civilian personnel and their family members. MWR is located in the Codina Building at 8300 NW 33rd Street, Suite 110, Miami, Florida. A few of the programs and who is eligible to use them are listed below.

The Family Support Center, located in Suite 110 in the Codina Building, offers a wide range of support services: Information and Referral, Family Advocacy, Relocation Assistance, Consumer Affairs and Financial Assistance Program, Army Emergency Relief, Exceptional Family Member Program, Transition Assistance, counseling support, Family Member Employment Assis-

tance, Lending Closet and notary public services. The phone number is (305) 437-2665 or DSN 567-2665.

The Marketing and Sponsorship Office provides a variety of services including: MWR customer satisfaction surveys; MWR annual calendar of events; MWR marketing plan; customer service liaison with greater Miami and surrounding area businesses; commercial sponsorship for MWR special events, the MWR newsletter (The Bugle Boy) and other publications.

The Physical Fitness Center is open 24 hours daily to all service members and Department of Defense civilians. The center is located in the headquarters building. An attendant is on duty and towels are available from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

MWR maintains a list of childcare centers accredited by the National Academy of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and has developed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of America, as well as other youth development organizations to offer youth recreational programs primarily during the summer vacation months. All service members and Department of Defense civilian employees attached to Southern Command are eligible to request childcare and youth development subsidies. Service members are asked to stop by the MWR Office and fill out a request packet, which requires supporting financial documentation. The amount of subsidy given is based on the service member's total family income. The Department of Defense fee structure is used as basis for determining subsidy.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program (ADAPCP) is located at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Building, 8400 NW 33rd Street, Suite 102, and provides prevention and education services, the Civilian Employee Assistance Program and conducts military and civilian biochemical testing. Phone (305) 437-3078 for information or assistance.

Pending availability of funds, MWR will pay the entry fee of Southern Com-

mand sports teams in community parks and recreation leagues. Requests should be submitted to the Recreation Services Office 30 days prior to league play. Players must be assigned to Southern Command.

The Information, Tickets and Registration (ITR) Office at the headquarters building, Room #1303A, sells discount tickets to movies, events, local area attractions, Disney World, Shades of Green Armed Forces Recreation Center, Sea World and other attractions outside of the Miami area. The ITR Office can be reached by calling (305) 437-1595.

Self-sustaining special interest groups, which desire to conduct fundraisers and establish an informal or formal fund, must register with the MWR office and have prior approval from the commander to operate. Private organizations will operate in accordance with established Southern Command regulations. Various criteria must be followed. See the MWR office for further assistance and guidance.

Family Support Center

The U.S. Army Garrison-Miami's Family Support Center provides comprehensive, coordinated and responsive services that support readiness and retention of service members, civilian personnel and families assigned and/or attached to the Southern Command. The center offers the following programs on and off site to meet the needs of the community:

- Deployment or Mobilization Readiness
- Soldier and Family Readiness
- Family Advocacy Program
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Relocation Readiness
- Employment Readiness
- Transition Assistance Program
- Financial Readiness

- Information, Referral and Follow-up Program
- Volunteer Program
- Military Family Action Plan
- Army Family Team Building

For additional information or assistance, call 1-888-547-4025, extension 2665 or (305) 437-2665 or visit the Family Support Center in the Codina Building at 8300 NW 33rd Street, Suite 110, Miami, Florida.

Deployment or Mobilization and Stability and Support Operations Readiness

The deployment or mobilization readiness program provides family assistance and support services to families of active and reserve component personnel and emergency-essential civilians to enhance unit cohesion and increase readiness. The program is available to both family members and military personnel who are supporting military operations.

Soldier and Family Readiness

The Family Advocacy Program addresses child abuse and neglect and spouse abuse (including prevention, identification, reporting, investigation and treatment).

The Exceptional Family Member Program provides community support, housing, personnel, education and medical services to families with special needs.

Relocation Readiness

Relocation assistance is provided to reduce or eliminate problems arising because of frequent moves. This component provides a coordinated, comprehensive program of current information, guidance and education in order to provide support throughout the tour. A Lending Closet with supplies of essential household goods is available on a tem-

porary loan basis for in- and out-processing families. Available items include dishes and cookware, small appliances and baby furniture.

Cultural transition to the South Florida area is available and includes the following services:

- Foreign-born spouse and multicultural family support groups
- Cultural awareness workshops
- Referrals to off-site language instruction
- Spanish/English translation resources

The Relocation Assistance Coordinating Committee meets quarterly to ensure coordination and cooperation among the various relocation services. The committee will develop a comprehensive relocation assistance plan that addresses elements and functions of relocation assistance provided by each activity, training requirements for all relocation service providers, and an evaluation plan to ensure assistance is accessible, effective and responsive to the needs of the military family.

Counseling assistance is available on an individual and group basis. It is available to both inbound and outbound personnel with the primary focus on pre-departure counseling and relocation planning. At a minimum, persons preparing for their first permanent change of station (PCS) move or first overseas PCS will be targeted for counseling sessions.

Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service (SITES) is a database that contains information about every major military base and installation throughout the world. SITES also provides information on the local community to include: schools, employment, medical care and programs for children and teens as well as relocation and support services complete with tips for survival.



MWR sponsors many events throughout the year that are designed for family members of all ages.

Financial Readiness

The Financial Readiness program provides services that support leaders in maintaining unit financial readiness to sustain deployments and to counsel and educate military members on financial self-sufficiency.

Classes are provided in personal financial management readiness and consumer affairs to service members and family members. The classes include banking and credit union services, budget development and recordkeeping, credit, debt liquidation, consumer rights and obligations, insurance and personal financial readiness.

Emergency financial assistance is available to active duty service members, retirees and their families during financial emergencies. The program is administered by the Army Emergency Relief Officer for all branches of service and also organizes the annual fundraising drive.

Employment Readiness

Employment assistance provides help to eligible personnel who are seeking public and private sector employment.

Comprehensive, accurate, easily accessible and up-to-date information is provided on available employment, education and volunteer resources (Chamber of Commerce, area chapters of professional and trade associations, job re-entry centers, temporary employment agencies and regular "fee paid" placement agencies, Small Business Bureau, college career counseling and placement centers and home business opportunities).

Classes, programs, workshops, seminars or individual sessions will be conducted or sponsored with the intent of strengthening individuals by imparting knowledge and/or teaching a skill. They include: personal effectiveness training and confidence building, financial planning and employment decisions, skills and competencies building, career opportunities, building an educational/career plan, dressing for success, resume writing, personal career development and educational training classes.

In conjunction with community representatives from business, education and nonprofit agencies, the following services/programs are also offered:

- Job fairs
- Full time, part time and seasonal employment opportunities
- Youth volunteer/employment opportunities
- Volunteer referrals
- Home business opportunities
- Educational programs including degrees, tele-courses and testing services.

Transition Assistance Program

The Transition Assistance Program is available for military personnel and their families planning to separate or retire from the military. On-site career and benefits counseling and transition

assistance are provided in compliance with applicable public laws and Department of Defense regulations. Military personnel are offered a three-stage Transition Assistance Program.

Information, Referrals and Follow-up

Information, Referral and Follow-up is a program designed to provide ready access to information for service members, civilian employees and their families. The program assists authorized persons in meeting their basic needs and improving the quality of their lives. The Family Support Center has cooperative relationships with public, private and voluntary information and referral agencies, organizations and military services.

Volunteer Program

A volunteer program is coordinated to allow active duty personnel and their family members to get information about volunteer opportunities at the command and in the civilian community. This program also conducts volunteer recognition programs; develops a job bank; recruits, interviews, and refers volunteers to organizations; maintains a record of hours collected from other volunteer managers; assists volunteer managers in developing job descriptions; serves as an advocate for volunteer issues; and chairs the Volunteer Advisory Council.

Military Family Action Plan

The Military Family Action Plan (MFAP) is a program comprised of volunteers to brainstorm issues and develop solutions to concerns that affect service members, Department of Defense civilian employees, retirees and family members. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles, e.g., delegate, transcriber, recorder, observer and subject matter expert at the local, regional, and Depart-

ment of the Army levels. Issues span the spectrum of well-being considerations - medical and dental, pay and benefits, family support, education, relocation, housing, reserve and retiree concerns, OPTEMPO, support for isolated and geographically dispersed locations, employment, emergency relief and many others. The Southern Command conference is usually conducted in the spring with a representation from the local conference attending the conference at Headquarters, Department of the Army. The process helps to:

- Give commanders a gauge to validate concerns and measure satisfaction
- Retain the best and brightest
- Provide changes in legislation, policies, programs and services that strengthen readiness and retention
- Safeguard well-being

Army Family Team Building

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) is an education program to improve the overall readiness of the force by teaching and promoting personal and family readiness through standardized, progressive and sequential education of family members. It helps service members and family members to adapt to military life, manage change and accept challenges. AFTB, as a volunteer program, was designed and written by and for volunteer family members and is managed by volunteers to the greatest extent possible.

Homestead & Homestead Air Reserve Base

The city of Homestead, founded between 1900-1907, is approximately 30 miles south of Miami and has a population of about 21,000. The main routes to both Miami and the Florida Keys from this city are the Florida Turnpike and U.S. Route 1.

Agriculture is the predominant source of income in the Homestead area, followed by tourism. The city is adjacent to the Upper Keys (Key Largo and Marathon) and has the only living coral reef in the continental United States. South Florida is famous for its variety of fresh seafood and many fine seafood restaurants can be found within an hour's drive from the base.

The Florida Gold Coast, which stretches from Miami to Palm Beach, is famous for its beaches, luxury hotels, nightlife and a variety of sports and recreation activities. Orlando and Tampa are within a half-day driving distance and feature attractions such as Walt Disney World and Busch Gardens. The Miami MetroZoo, located approximately 20 miles from the base, is one of the foremost zoos in the world. Exotic animals roam about, without cages, in an environment much like their natural habitat. The Miami Seaquarium, near Key Biscayne, offers similar opportunities to view marine life and to visit the original set of the TV movie series "Flipper."

Homestead Air Reserve Base is adjacent to the city of Homestead and about 20 miles north of Key Largo. Key West is approximately 130 miles south of the base and is nearly three hours away by car.

The 482nd Fighter Wing, Air Force Reserve, maintains and operates Homestead ARB. It is a fully combat ready unit capable of providing F-16C multi-purpose fighter aircraft, along with mission ready pilots and support personnel, for short-notice worldwide deployment.

Homestead ARB provides the Department of Defense with an efficient, cost effective air base and ready access to a strategic staging location on the rim of the Caribbean basin, to support contingency and training operations associated



An F-4 Phantom decorates the entrance to Homestead Air Reserve Base.

with the Southern Command area of responsibility.

As the host unit at Homestead ARB, the 482nd supports the operations of several tenant units. These include the scramble capability of a detachment of North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) F-15 fighter interceptors, as well as the U.S. Customs Miami Air Branch drug enforcement air interdiction mission. During the Atlantic hurricane season (June through November), the 482nd routinely supports forward deployment of the Air Force Reserves Hurricane Hunters weather reconnaissance mission.

In addition, the 482nd Fighter Wing supports and trains civil engineering, communications, medical, logistics, aircraft maintenance, mission support, aerial port and security forces squadrons that can be used interchangeably with active duty units to meet Air Force responsibilities around the world.

Base Services

Homestead's BX Mart is a one-stop shop that combines the best selections from the BX and commissaries around the Air Force. They have everything for

indoor and outdoor living including catalog shopping and a deli section.

Homestead ARB does not have a hospital or medical clinic for family members. A physician's assistant is available to provide medical attention to eligible members. Eligible members are active duty personnel, reserve personnel on military orders or make-up Unit Training Activity (UTA) status (line of duty injuries or illnesses only). Civilian employees of Homestead ARB with minor duty related illnesses and injuries are also treated.

Automatic Teller Machines are located at the BX Mart and at the First National Bank east of the lodging facilities. Additionally, personal checks up to \$300 can be cashed at the BX Mart for persons eligible to use the facility.

Worship services are available on base during primary UTA weekends only. During UTA weekends, Catholic services are offered at 4 p.m. on Saturdays in Building 596. Protestant services are offered three times on Sunday: 7 a.m. in Building 588, 7:30 a.m. in Building 101 and 8:30 a.m. in Building 596.

An All Ranks Club provides the same amenities as any other base club. All club cards are honored. A sandwich

Homestead & Homestead Air Reserve Base



The All Ranks Club combines dining and recreation in one facility.

bar is available with a wide lunch selection. Check cashing services are available to all valid club cardholders.

The newly refurbished Sports and Fitness Center has a complete range of equipment and activities including full basketball courts, an aerobics room, Nautilus equipment, free weight stations, saunas, baseball and football field, a health shop and handball/racquetball and tennis courts. Fishing and snorkeling equipment and a John Boat are available for rental.

For additional information, contact the base Public Affairs Office at (305) 224-7303 or DSN 791-7303. More information about the base is also available in Flightlines, a bi-weekly newspaper produced by the Public Affairs Office. Copies of the newspaper are available at various locations on the base including the exchange and the headquarters.



Homestead's BX Mart is a one-stop shop that combines the best selections from exchanges and commissaries around the Air Force.

Telephone Numbers

When making calls from a military line to a military line within Southern Command organizations in Miami, dial the last four numbers only. To make a DSN call, you must dial 84 and then the seven digit DSN number. The DSN prefix for SOUTHCOM is 567. When making a local call from a military line, it is necessary to dial 9, the area code and the seven-digit number. All local calls in Dade County are area code 305. Calls to Monroe County (the Keys area), and Broward County are long distance. For long-distance dialing from an approved military line, you must dial 7 then the area code and seven-digit number.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS (AREA CODE 305)

SOUTHCOM TRANSPORTATION
LIAISON..... 437-1727
USCG INBOUND A-G.... 278-6833
(Surname) H-M... 278-6830
N-Z.... 278-6826
QUALITY CONTROL..... 278-6835
FORT STEWART TRANSPORTATION
(CLAIMS)..... (912) 767-8906

MEDICAL

SOUTHCOM HEALTH CLINIC APPTS
DESK:..... (305)-437-3559
..... (305)-437-1148
SOUTHCOM TRICARE
REPRESENTATIVE... (305)-437-1394
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COMMISSARY..... 953-2290

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COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE..... 411
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WATER & SEWAGE..... 450-6900
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LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES
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EDUCATION

BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

600 S.E. 3RD AVENUE

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FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

. 954-765-6000

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DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

1450 N.E. 2ND AVENUE

MIAMI, FL 33132

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FAX: (305)-995-1572

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<http://www.dadeschools.net/board/about.htm>

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BROWARD: (954)-767-8524

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION:
DADE: (305)-547-5444

NEVA KING COOPER EDUCATIONAL CENTER:
..... (305)-247-4307

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MERRICK EDUCATIONAL CENTER:
..... (305)-460-2903

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MIAMI SHORES, FL 33161
..... (305)-899-3000

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY PARK, TAMiami TRAIL
MIAMI, FL 33199
..... (305)-348-2000

FLORIDA MEMORIAL COLLEGE
15800 NORTHWEST 42ND AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33054
..... (305)-625-4141

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY
AT NORTH MIAMI
1701 NE 127TH St.
NORTH MIAMI, FL 33181
..... (305)-892-7000

MIAMI INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY
8180 NW 36TH STREET
Miami, FL 33166
..... (305)-593-1223

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
500 NE 1ST AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33132
..... (305)-577-4600

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11011 SOUTHWEST 104TH STREET
MIAMI, FL 33176
..... (305)-237-2000

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
16400 NORHTWEST 32ND AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33054
..... (305)-625-6000

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION
1750 NE 167TH St.
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL 33162
..... (305)-949-4000

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY AND STANFORD DRIVE
CORAL GABLES, FL 33124
..... (305)-284-2211



Miami is a subtropical paradise with beautiful white sands and warm ocean waters.

Congratulations!

You are about to embark upon a memorable adventure. South Florida has almost everything that military personnel and family members could want...nice weather, great shopping, fabulous recreation and cultural opportunities ... the list is endless. The cost-of-living is a little more than the national norm for a standard city, but the climate and the number of free and inexpensive recreational and cultural opportunities help to make up for it.

It is difficult to speak of South Florida without mentioning the many surrounding communities that comprise the Greater Miami area. Military people who are used to living in close-knit neighborhoods will appreciate the community atmosphere. Area communities have family-friendly enclaves, complete with tree-lined streets, parks and kids on bikes.

As a dynamic, multi-cultural area, Greater Miami boasts the best of many worlds. Every group has made its mark on the area. Visit Little Havana's ethnic stores, restaurants and many festivals for

a cultural experience. Just minutes away from Little Havana, Coconut Grove has sidewalk cafes and shopping. For those who seek a more fast-paced evening, South Beach's ocean front district has numerous activities to keep you entertained. South Florida has it all.

FUN FLORIDA FACTS:

Nickname: The Sunshine State
Slogan: In God We Trust
Animal: The Florida Panther
Flower: Orange Blossom
Bird: Mockingbird
Climate: Subtropical Marine

Temperature Range: Average low in January of 59 degrees Fahrenheit, to an average high in August of 89 degrees Fahrenheit.

Annual precipitation: The state has an average of 57.55 inches of rainfall per year.

The South Florida environment year-round is subtropical. Most people are comfortable in lightweight casual wear, but a jacket or a sweater may be

needed on cooler nights or during the winter months. South Florida averages 251 days of sunshine a year, so sunscreen is a must. Summers tend to be hot and humid; humidity ranges between 55-60 percent inland and 65-70 percent on the coast. Evening showers and ocean breezes temper the humidity with cooling winds.

South Florida is at risk of experiencing one or more strong tropical storms per year, mainly from May through November during the hurricane season. In the event of a hurricane, emergency information is available from the Hurricane Hotline: (305)-598-7550.

HURRICANE KIT:

Hurricanes can blow into the area with little warning, so it is wise to plan ahead for such an emergency. Essentials to consider stockpiling are: drinking water, batteries, bug repellent and a good first aid kit. Aspirin and bandages should be kept, too. Keep the items listed below in a sealed, plastic container, out of the reach of children, with your other hurricane supplies:

- Acetaminophen liquid
- Antibacterial moist towelettes
- Antibiotic ointment
- Butterfly closures
- Diaper rash cream (if applicable)
- Electrolyte solution
- Glycerin suppositories
- Liquid benadryl (allergic reactions)
- Medicated powder (heat rash)
- Simethicone drops (gas relief)
- Small cartoon bandages
- Sunscreen
- Teething ointment (if applicable)
- Thermometer: rectal, oral
- A first aid handbook geared to children.

HISTORY OF MIAMI

The Spanish, led by Juan Ponce de Leon, arrived in Florida in 1513. They encountered the Tequesta Indians, who completely vanished due to war, disease

Surrounding Communities

and dislocation after only 250 years of Spanish control. During the second half of Spanish rule in Florida, colonization was encouraged and many farms were established along the Miami River and Biscayne Bay.

In 1821, the Spanish sold Florida to the United States for \$5 million. The Second Seminole War between 1835 and 1842 was the most devastating Indian war in American history and caused the depopulation of the Miami area. After the war ended, William English established a plantation and charted the "Village of Miami" along the south bank. By the end of the Third Seminole War in 1858 there were only a few families making their homes in Miami.

In the late 1890s, wealthy pioneers began to make their way down to south Florida. Among them were Julia Tuttle and William and Mary Brickell, who convinced railroad magnate Henry Flagler to extend his railroad to Miami. Flagler later opened the famous Royal Palm Hotel and the erecting of other buildings soon followed.

By the turn of the century Miami saw a number of modern changes such as a channel connecting the bayfront and the Atlantic Ocean, the extension of the railroad to Key West and the drainage of the Everglades to provide more arable land.

Around the time of the World War I, the growth of Miami's tourist industry really took off. Brickell Avenue became "Millionaire's Row" when wealthy visitors built sprawling vacation homes there. Subdivisions and new developments sprung up in places like Coral Gables and Coconut Grove. But in September 1926 a massive hurricane swept through the area, killing more than 100 residents and a severe economic depression ensued.

During the World War II, a number of training facilities were established in Miami and Dade County. After the war, many veterans returned to the South Florida to make their homes. In 1959, Fidel Castro took control of Cuba and a huge influx of Cuban exiles flooded the



World renowned cruise ships, beaches, restaurants and nightclubs are all just across the bridge from Downtown Miami.

area, which served to spawn new life in the city's economy and its neighborhoods. Over the years a number of other immigrants have called Miami home, most notably Haitian immigrants in the 1980s.

Today Miami is a thriving, vital city. It is the gateway to South America bringing in millions of dollars in international trade and commerce. Tourism is also a large part of the Miami economy, especially with the revitalization of the South Beach area.

SOUTH BEACH

South Beach has become one of the fastest growing and most popular neighborhoods in Greater Miami. The popularity of South Beach is not only in tourism but also in fashion, music and film. South Beach has recently become home to a number of film, television and print production companies, making Miami the third largest industry center in the country.

Because of this growth, South Beach has undergone an amazing restoration. The Art Deco District contains more than 800 newly restored buildings designed in a distinctive architectural style, all within a single square-mile. The famous Ocean Drive

is filled with people strolling, biking, skating or just sitting at its many cafes, restaurants and bars. The Lincoln Road Shopping District, a pedestrian concourse, is lined with unique boutiques and galleries showcasing local artists, as well as cafes, restaurants and nightclubs. Lummus Park and South Pointe Park beaches offer great people-watching opportunities.

NORTHWEST MIAMI AREA

From pari-mutuels to par 72 courses, the northwest area of Greater Miami has a variety of fun and interesting activities to enjoy.

Hialeah

Amid Hialeah's bustling residential and industrial community you can find beauty, history and a dash of Greater Miami color. The Hialeah Park racetrack, built in 1925, has gained international recognition for being one of the world's most beautiful racetracks. Its historic significance and aesthetic appeal have earned the facility a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While the horseracing season lasts from March to May, you can visit year-round to see the track's colorful colony of about 400 pink flamingos that have been in residence here since the 1930s.

Opa Locka

This little town just north of Hialeah was the brainchild of developer Glenn Curtiss, who, along with James Bright, created this fanciful city with an Arabian Nights theme. You can see the Moorish designs in the city hall and in several buildings in the downtown district, complete with minaret's elaborate domes in brightly painted colors. The city also has its own airport which hosts year-round events from air shows to the circus.

Miami Lakes

If golf is your game, Miami Lakes provides some of the best golf links in Greater Miami. Between rounds, take time out to enjoy the fine dining and shopping on Main Street, a pedestrian mall with a quaint hometown feel. Live weekly entertainment is also featured in addition to various music and art festivals that are held throughout the year.

WEST MIAMI AIRPORT AREA

Airplanes are not the only things flying in the area around Miami International Airport. The Miami Jai-Alai Fronton, located east of the airport on the Miami River, is the oldest and largest jai-alai arena in the United States. It offers nonstop action for aficionados of this fast-paced game. If you wish to explore the world of high art, the Art Museum at Florida International University, just off the Tamiami Trail (SW 8th Street) on NW 107th Avenue, displays exhibits by cutting-edge artists from around the globe. Right next door is Tamiami Park where a number of shows and special events, such as the Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition, are held year-round.

SOUTH DADE AREA

Perhaps nowhere is the resiliency of Greater Miami more evident than in the South Dade region. In the few years since Hurricane Andrew, the residents of this largely suburban and rural area have emerged from the devastation to rebuild and create a new community. From South Miami to Florida City, the South Dade area provides a mix of ecotourism, history,

culture, modern suburbanism, rural simplicity and fun for people of all ages.

NORTH BEACHES

The seaside communities north of Miami Beach have everything you need for a super vacation - sophistication, serenity and the sea - all a stones throw from the action of South Beach.

Bal Harbour

This elegant little village south of Haulover Park provides a peaceful yet sophisticated hideaway for visitors from around the world. While it is one of Dade County's smallest municipalities, it is also one of the wealthiest. The main family income is more than \$126,000 annually. This winning combination, along with Bal Harbour's high standards for public services, has created an intimate, stylish community that has consistently been a favorite playground for jet-setters and families alike. For shopping and dining that rivals Fifth Avenue, Rodeo Drive or the Champs Elysees, Bal Harbour Shops have the latest haute couture, jewelry and merchandise from top designers as well as some of the most innovative and delicious cuisine in the country.

Sunny Isles Beach

Nostalgia buffs will relish the hotels of Sunny Isles Beach, many designed with whimsical '50s-style theme motifs. The hotels offer lively entertainment, with the convenience of the ocean just a few feet away. At the Newport Fishing Pier, located at 170th Street and Collins Avenue, fishing gear can be rented, bait is for sale and a vantage point for casting your line is available for fishing or for people watching. For a taste of the sporting life, Haulover Park has fishing, a bike paths, a tennis courts and a golf course.

Surfside

The nearby village of Surfside, with its quiet neighborhoods family-owned stores, is the perfect place for visitors who want to enjoy a more residential slice of Miami Beach. Here the North Shore State Recreation Area is stretch of

shoreline that caters to families. The Surfside Community Center and Tot-Lot features an Art Deco-style outdoor stage reminiscent of a miniature Hollywood Bowl where various local shows and events are presented year-round.

NORTHEAST MIAMI AREA

The northeast area of Greater Miami is a blend of small-town charm, cosmopolitan flair and ancient treasures, both natural and man-made. Aventura, with its majestic high-rises overlooking over the Atlantic Ocean, has world-class dining, shopping and accommodations in a community that exudes style and elegance. North Miami Beach is home to Greynolds Park, established in 1936 and is one of Greater Miami's oldest parks. It is a historic site and boasts a nine hole, par 36 golf course. The Ancient Spanish Monastery, an actual 10th-century monastery brought from Spain in 1925 by newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, was reconstructed in its current location in 1952. For a look at nature's artistry, check out the Arch Creek Natural Bridge in North Miami's Arch Creek Park. Used as a roadway bridge for decades, it collapsed in 1973. The natural stone formation was painstakingly re-created in 1988 by local artist Louis Van Der Carr and is now part of the county park. At the center of the village of Miami Shores is the Miami Shores Country Club where you can enjoy a relaxing round of golf.

BISCAYNE BAY/HARBOR ISLAND

Biscayne Bay Islands provides a cozy retreat from the bustle of the mainland and beaches. Bay Harbor Islands and North Bay Village offer intimate shopping and dining. Small, upscale boutiques cater to those in search of the unusual and restaurants serve a variety of cuisines with Greater Miami flair. Dodge Island is the site of the Port of Miami, the largest cruise ship port in the world where you can take a day-long cruise, or longer, on a number of luxury cruise

Surrounding Communities

lines. Fisher Island, accessible only by boat or plane, is a luxurious resort and residential island for the jet-set.

Key Biscayne

Key Biscayne has two beautiful parks: Crandon Park and Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Park. Each park has beaches, bike trails and nature tours. Crandon Park has world class tennis and golf facilities. It also the University of Miami's Marine Lab where students and faculty study the delicate ecology of Biscayne Bay and the Miami Seaquarium, home of Flipper the Dolphin, Lolita the Killer Whale and a other of sea creatures and exhibits.

DOWNTOWN MIAMI

Miami's downtown reflects the diversity that made it famous as the city of change. Its attractions reflect the city's ability to look toward the future without losing sight of the past. The Freedom Tower on Biscayne Boulevard is a monument to the city's ability to change. Built in 1924, the city's first skyscraper has housed the offices of the Miami News and has been the gateway to freedom for thousands of Cuban refugees. The ornate Gusman Center, originally built in the mid-1920s as the Olympia Theater, offers a wide selection of performing arts, from stand-up comedians to the New World Symphony. The Metro-Dade Cultural Center, with its Mediterranean plaza and cascading fountains, provides an old-world setting for Greater Miami's state-of-the-art library. A historical and fine-arts museum displays the works of world-renowned artists, past and present. The Orange Bowl is home to the University of Miami Hurricanes football team and is the site of many concerts and special events throughout the year.

MIAMI BEACH

Miami Beach is a place where beautiful people sun by day and revel by night in a party scene as legendary as the celebrities who grace the neon lighted clubs, bars and restaurants. Once you

explore the beach, discover Miami Beach's shopping, dining and pastel colored Art Deco District.

Miami Beach holds a myriad of fun and interesting places to visit, each an example of the rich cultural diversity found in Miami. The Wolfsonian Museum, one of the newest additions to the local art scene, has a singular collection of more than 70,000 works of art. For art of a more poignant sort, visit the Holocaust Memorial, commemorating the Jewish victims and survivors of World War II.

If you're heading for the beach, the uniquely designed lifeguard stations along the shore sport lively pastels that are synonymous with Miami Beach.

For a closer look at Miami Beach's distinctive neighborhoods, the Miami Beach Preservation League offers walking, biking and in-line skating tours of the Art Deco District, led by informative guides who provide a unique perspective on this charming city.

Palm, Star and Hibiscus islands are just a few of the many private islands that line the Venetian and MacArthur causeways and much of the western edge of Miami Beach. Here live some of Greater Miami's wealthiest residents including celebrities such as Gloria Estefan. Al Capone, perhaps Miami's most infamous resident, had an estate on Palm Island in the 1920s.

COCONUT GROVE

The many places in Coconut Grove reflect the variety and individuality that sets this them apart from the rest of Greater Miami. Built in 1916, Vizcaya Villa and Gardens was the residence of millionaire James Deering and is most noted for its elaborate Renaissance-style architecture. The 70-room estate was purchased by Dade County in 1952 and opened to the public as a museum showcasing the fabulous art and furniture collection Deering had amassed during the course of his worldwide travels. Part of the estate was set aside to build the Miami Science Museum and Planetari-



Sunset Place in Coconut Grove is just one of many popular South Florida shopping areas.

um, which features different exhibits and daily shows on the wonders of space and the scientific world. Miami City Hall is located on Dinner Key, which gets its name from being a popular picnic spot for the Grove's early residents. The building was originally an aviation training base for the Navy during World War I. In 1934, it became the base of operations for Pan American World Airways, the first airline connecting Miami with other parts of the world. In 1946, it was sold to the City of Miami and was leased as a restaurant until 1954 when it became the "temporary" City Hall of Miami-and has remained ever since.

In addition to places to visit, Coconut Grove hosts a number of festivals and events throughout the year, including the annual Coconut Grove Bed Race, Goombay Festival, King Mango Strut and the Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

CORAL GABLES

Many of the buildings and districts of Coral Gables are meticulously pre-

served as historic landmarks, offering a glimpse of Merrick's grand vision. Among the more notable sites is the 1927 Coral Gables City Hall, with a distinctive mural by artist John St. John depicting scenes of the city's early days. The Douglas Road Entrance, one of several ornate street entrances to Coral Gables, reflects the Mediterranean style that dominates the city fashioned from a rock quarry, the municipal Venetian Pool is a tribute to the old world city, complete with beautiful Italian architecture and even a waterfall. The Mediterranean-style Biltmore Hotel, completed in 1926, has been restored to its former grandeur as one of Greater Miami's premier resorts.

Coral Gables is the site of the University of Miami. UM was founded in 1926 and is the oldest university in the Greater Miami area. It is home to the Miami Hurricanes college football, baseball and basketball teams.

The arts flourish in the City Beautiful. The Lowe Art Museum, located in the University of Miami, hosts changing exhibits by both local and international artists. On the first Friday of each month, between 7:30 and 10 p.m. the Coral Gables Gallery Association sponsors Gables Gallery Night, a free walking and shuttle-bus tour of many of the area's 22 art galleries.

OTHER MIAMI NEIGHBORHOODS

Brickell Avenue

The Brickell Avenue area just south of the Miami River was originally the homestead of William Brickell, one of Greater Miami's founding fathers. Today it is an important part of Miami's business world and is part of Miami's distinctive skyline. Many of the towering office buildings and residences that grace the bayfront have been internationally recognized for their innovative designs.

Little Havana

Just west of Brickell is Little Havana, one of several famous additions to Greater Miami's melting pot. This prima-

rily Cuban community is extremely proud of its heritage and nowhere is this more evident than on Calle Ocho or SW 8th Street. Every March the Kiwanis Club sponsors what has been called the world's largest block party, with attendance as high as one million. The event, also known as Calle Ocho, is the finish to the Carnival Miami Festival.

The streets of this vibrant neighborhood are alive with the sights and the sounds of Cuba. Patrons at casual sidewalk cafeterias discuss everything from politics to the progress of a nearby dominos game as they enjoy savory media noche sandwiches accompanied by tall glasses of mojitos, a popular Cuban drink. Quaint shops line the streets, where you can find such treasures as beautifully embroidered guayabera shirts and cigars rolled by hand at a nearby factory. At night, the sounds of salsa and dancing fill the air as Cuban supper clubs serve up exotic cuisine and music infused with the Latin spice that the locals call la sawesera.

Little Haiti

Little Haiti was once known as Lemon City. It was renamed due to the influx of Haitian immigrants in the 1990s. Little Haiti is a vibrant community with an interesting blend of Caribbean culture and American spirit. The Caribbean Marketplace, a unique shopping center noted for its exotic architecture (designed to resemble the Iron Market in Port-au-Prince, Haiti), is located in the heart of the early settlers community where local vendors reach for their piece of the American pie.

Overtown

Once the thriving center of Greater Miami's African-American community, Overtown area is enjoying a rebirth in stature that began with the opening of the Miami Arena, home of the NBA's Heat basketball team and the NHL's Florida Panthers. The Overtown Historic Village encompasses restored buildings that are important to the area's history, including the D.A. Dorsey House, home of Miami's first African-

American millionaire, the Lyric Theater and the Greater Bethel AME Church. This two-block area celebrates Overtown's past and future as a training center for the preservation and promotion of history and the arts.

Liberty City.

Just west of Little Haiti is Liberty City, another active African-American community where civic pride is an art form. Local artists create beautiful murals on the walls of various buildings in the area depicting local and world-renowned heroes of the African-American community. The Sunstreet Festival, a Liberty City tradition for many years, is a two-week-long event held in November to celebrate South Florida's unique African-American history. The celebration hosts a variety of foods, music and dance.

MIAMI TOWN HALLS

BAY HARBOR ISLANDS

Town Hall
9665 Bay Harbor Terrace
Bay Harbor Islands, Florida 33154
Phone: (305)-866-6241

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Phone: (305)-446-6800

CITY OF FLORIDA CITY

City Hall
404 West Palm Drive
P. O. Box 343570
Florida City, Florida 33034
Phone: (305)-247-8221

CITY OF HIALEAH

City Hall
501 Palm Avenue
Hialeah, Florida 33010
Phone: (305)-883-5820

CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS

City Hall
10001 NW 87th Avenue
Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016
Phone: (305)-558-4114

Surrounding Communities

CITY OF HOMESTEAD

790 N. Homestead Boulevard
Homestead, Florida 33030
Phone: (305)-247-1801

CITY OF MIAMI

3500 Pan American Drive
P. O. Box 330708
Miami, Florida 33133
Phone: (305)-250-5300

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

City Hall
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, Florida 33139
Phone: (305)-673-7030

CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS

City Hall
201 Westward Drive
Miami Springs, Florida 33166
Phone: (305)-885-4581

CITY OF NORTH BAY VILLAGE

City Hall
7903 East Drive
North Bay Village, Florida 33141
Phone: (305)-756-7171

CITY OF NORTH MIAMI

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776 NE 125 Street
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CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH

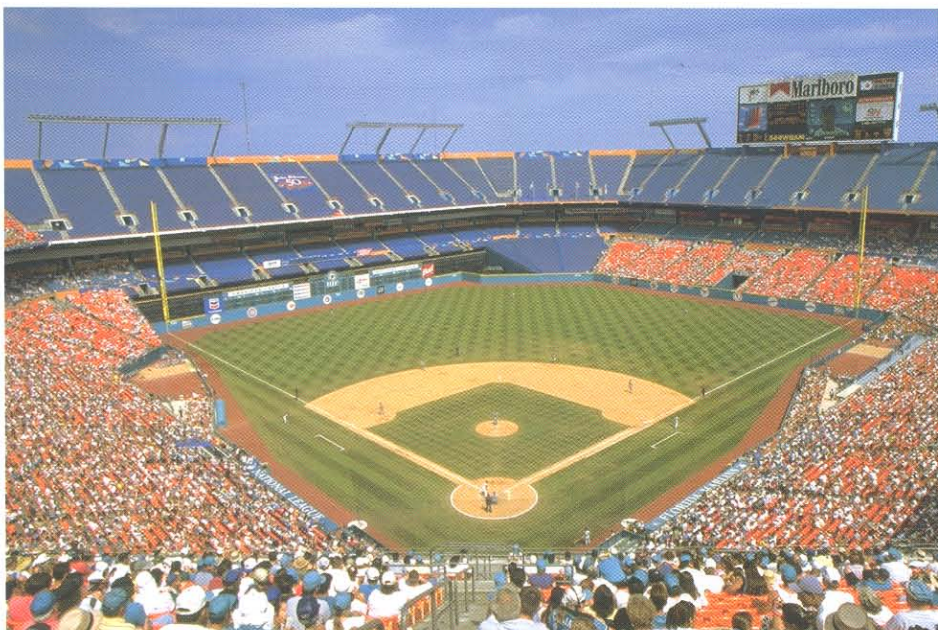
City Hall
170 11 N E 19th Avenue
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City Hall
777 Sharazad Boulevard
Opalocka, Florida 33054
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CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI

City Hall
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CITY OF WEST MIAMI

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Village Hall
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Indian Creek, Florida 33154
Phone: (305)-865-4121

ISLANDIA

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Miami, Florida 33167-6514
Phone: (305)-662-6112

TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

Town Hall
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Miami, Florida 33160
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TOWN OF SURFSIDE

Town Hall
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Village Hall
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Village Hall
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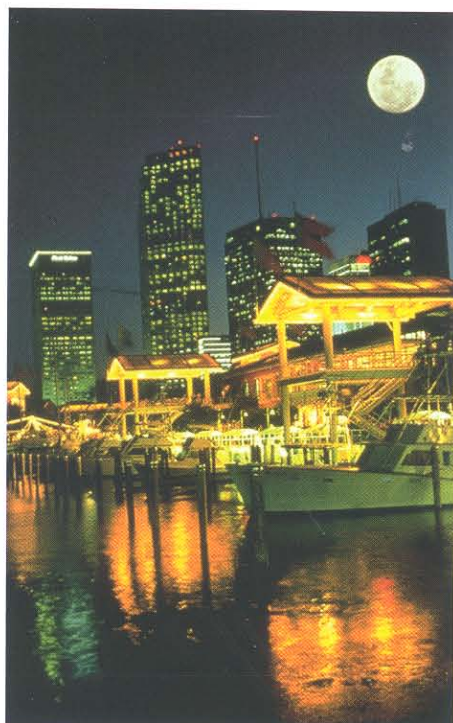
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Village Hall
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Key Biscayne, Florida
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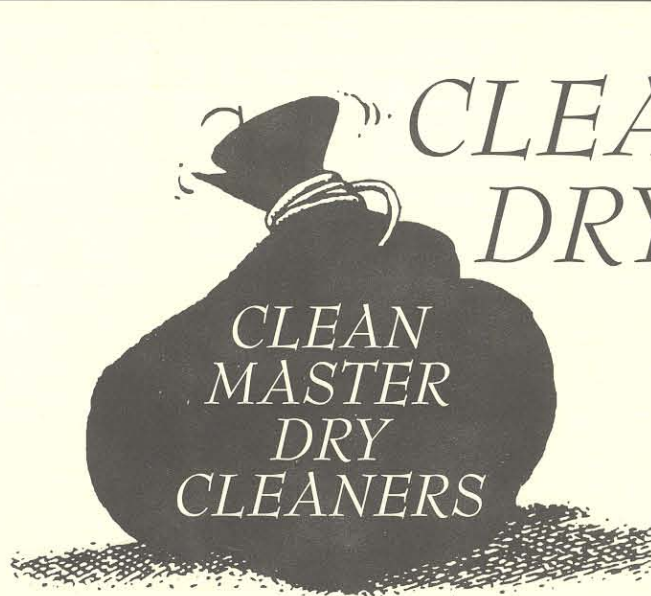
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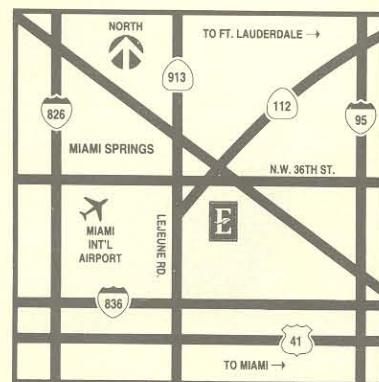
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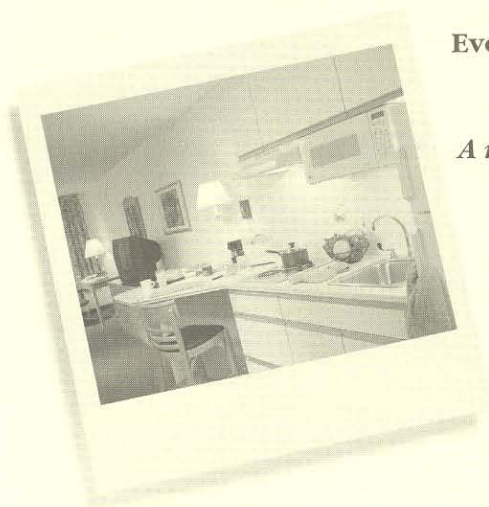
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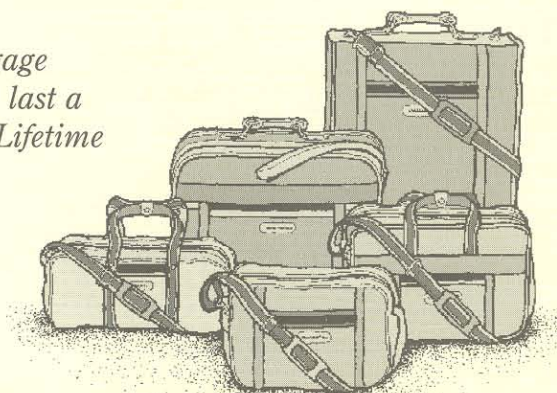
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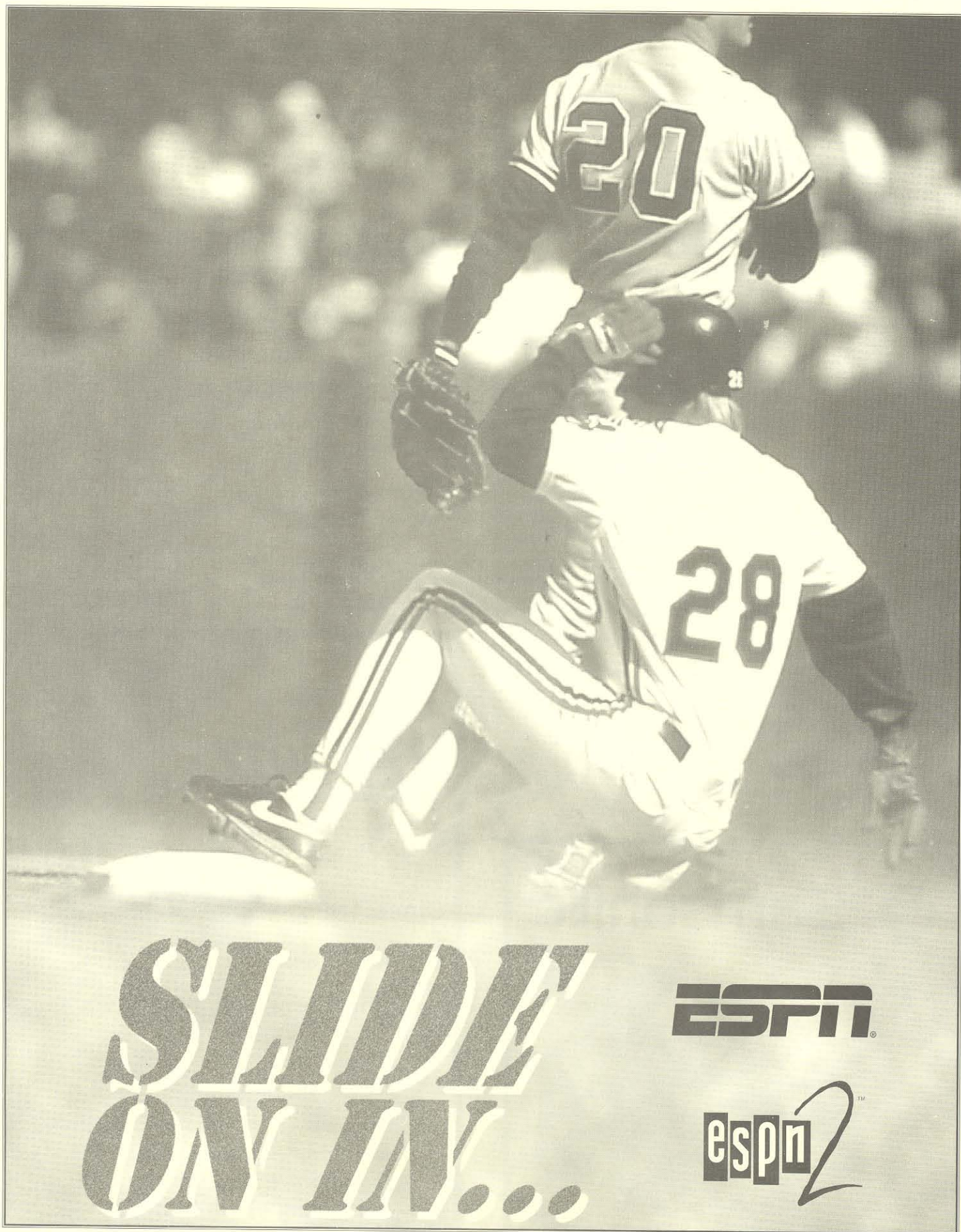
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